

[REDACTED]

september 26, 1990

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Slow Recovery From Coup Attempt

Nearly two months after the aborted coup, Prime Minister Robinson has made little progress in restoring public confidence or in bringing the rebels to trial. [REDACTED] rivalries within the government and security apparatus are distracting Robinson and that he has yet to resume a full schedule or to move on new social programs to offset austerity measures. He also has been widely criticized for retaining his National Security Minister, who offered to resign over the coup attempt. The government has delayed judicial proceedings against the rebels to prepare a case that will withstand scrutiny by human rights groups, [REDACTED] (C/NF)

Comment: Although Robinson's standing has diminished, his opponents have been incapable of taking advantage. Government officials undoubtedly are counting on an estimated \$35 million in increased oil revenues to defray the costs of recovery, but Robinson might back away from some IMF-mandated austerity measures if popular discontent threatens his party's chances in the next election, which must be held by early 1992. As many as 200 armed rebel supporters may remain at large and might attempt terrorist acts once full trial proceedings are under way. (C/NF) -CIA, [REDACTED]

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